

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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FM AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9887

INFO AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, PGOV, PINT, UNGA, DA

SUBJECT: DANISH UN AMBASSADOR MILDLY REPRIMANDED

REF A. COPENHAGEN 2870 B. COPENHAGEN 2838

SUMMARY: THE LATEST DANISH FOREIGN AFFAIRS FUMBLING WHICH HAS INDIRECTLY DAMAGED FOREIGN MINISTER OVE GULDBERG, HAS PRODUCED PRESS CONTROVERSY AND PARLIAMENTARY QUESTIONS. THE CULPRIT IN THIS AFFAIR HAS BEEN DANISH UN AMBASSADOR HANS TABOR WHO ALLEGEDLY PROMOTED A "YES" VOTE IN THE CORRIDORS IN NEW YORK ON THE PLO REPRESENTATION ISSUE AT THE SAME TIME HE FOLLOWED MFA INSTRUCTIONS TO ABSTAIN. END SUMMARY.

1. THE EXACT SEQUENCE OF EVENTS IS NOT CLEAR. APPARENTLY TABOR RECEIVED INSTRUCTIONS FROM THE MFA TO ABSTAIN AFTER HAVING EXPRESSED RATHER WIDELY HIS PERSONAL OPINION THAT THE DANISH POSITION FOLLOWING OTHER NORDIC COUNTRIES, SHOULD BE POSITIVE ON THE PLO. SOME DANISH NEWSPAPERS HAVE CHARGED THAT TABOR, ALTHOUGH ULTIMATELY ABSTAINING

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AS INSTRUCTED, MADE CLEAR TO ANYONE WHO WOULD LISTEN

THAT HE WAS DOING SO AGAINST HIS OWN PERSONAL
CONVICTIONS.

2. FOREIGN MINISTER OVE GULDBERG HAD TO RUSH FROM A
HALF HOUR'S CONVERSATION WITH SECRETARY KISSINGER ON
OCTOBER 23 TO RESPOND TO FOLKETING QUESTIONS ON TABOR'S
CONDUCT. GULDBERG SATISFIED, OR AT LEAST MOLLIFIED,
PARLIAMENTARY CONCERN BY A STATEMENT WHICH, "WITHOUT
WANTING TO CALL WHAT HAS TAKEN PLACE INCORRECT" FOUND
AFTER A "TOTAL ANALYSIS...GROUNDS TO REMIND THE AMBASSADOR
OF THE RULES APPLYING TO AN AMBASSADOR'S APPOINTMENT."

3. COMMENT: TABOR IS PROBABLY THE AMBASSADOR MOST
DISLIKED BY HIS DANISH FOREIGN SERVICE PROFESSIONALS.
THEY REGARD HIM AS UNPRINCIPLED AND UNSCRUPULOUSLY
AMBITIOUS. (ONE NEWSPAPER SPECULATED THAT HIS RECENT
ACTIONS MAY HAVE BEEN MOTIVATED BY TABOR'S WISH TO
INGRATiate HIMSELF WITH HIS COLLEAGUES IN NEW YORK IN
THE HOPE OF
BECOMING PRESIDENT OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY NEXT YEAR.) A
MFA OFFICIAL TOLD POLCOUNS THAT HE AND OTHERS IN THE
MINISTRY WERE DISAPPOINTED THAT GULDBERG DID NOT SEIZE
THIS OCCASION TO FIRE TABOR.

4. GULDBERG WAS NOT THE MAIN FOCUS OF CRITICISM IN
THIS AFFAIR. THE WHOLE MATTER WILL ALMOST CERTAINLY,
HOWEVER, PROVIDE GRIST TO THE MILL OF THOSE, SOME IN
HIS OWN MINISTRY, WHO CONTINUE TO ACCUSE HIM OF
MALADMINISTRATION OF DENMARK'S FOREIGN AFFAIRS.
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